



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
CLEANUP

MAR 19 2015

Mr. Bob Wyatt
Chairman, Lower Willamette Group
c/o Northwest Natural
220 Northwest Second Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97209

Re: Portland Harbor Superfund Site, Administrative Order on Consent for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study; Docket No. CERCLA-10-2001-0240
Feasibility Study, Section 1

Dear Mr. Wyatt:

This letter is in response to the LWG's submittal of comments on February 12, 2015 and March 10, 2015 regarding the EPA's draft Section 1 of the Feasibility Study. As we discussed at our March 11, 2015 senior manager/project manager meeting, EPA will consider these comments in revising this section of the FS. This letter further describes the context for this decision.

As you know, the EPA and the LWG have an agreed FS revisions process where the LWG is to provide comments within a 30 day comment period followed by a 15 day resolution period. This period commenced on July 8, 2014, when EPA provided a draft of the modifications made to the draft FS sections 1 and 2 to the LWG, and concluded on August 29, 2014. During that time frame, the LWG submitted comments on August 14, 2014 and additional comments on August 29, 2014. In its August 14, 2014 comments, the LWG requested that a description of the FS database be included in the text of Section 1. EPA concurred, and although we requested the LWG provide language describing the database by the conclusion of the comment period of August 29, 2014, the suggested revisions were not received until September 17, 2014. However, EPA fully considered these comments in making its final edits to FS section 1. The EPA and LWG staff had several meetings to discuss these comments, and EPA provided written responses on August 25, 2014 and January 9, 2015. It was EPA's belief that the January 9, 2015 version of FS section 1 was EPA's final draft, taking into account all of the comments and discussions with the LWG.

LWG then submitted additional comments to EPA (February 12, 2015, and March 10, 2015, letters from the LWG) and stated that it had not had the opportunity to comment on recent text revisions and that it had not yet commented on the drafts given DEQ's recent source control report. The only text revisions made by the EPA were in regard to LWG's comments. The majority of LWG's comments in both its February 12 and March 10, 2015 letters focus on the need for source control to be discussed in the discussion of the nature and extent of contaminants presented in Section 1.2.3. However, EPA's intent for this section is to present a discussion of the contaminants present in environmental media and where it is located throughout the site. Source control efforts are discussed in Section 1.2.2.2. Consequently, EPA has omitted language regarding source control in the nature and extent discussion.

While a strict read of our agreed process would suggest that the submittal of the comments on February 12, 2015 and March 10, 2015 was outside the agreed timeframes for the LWG to submit comments, EPA will consider the comments provided by the LWG on section 1 of the FS in finalizing the FS document. In the future, we expect the LWG will provide comments consistent with our agreed upon process to keep the project on schedule to meet our goal of a Proposed Plan and public comment period in 2016. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (206) 553-6523, or by email at cohen.lori@epa.gov. You may also contact Cami Grandinetti at (206) 553-8696, or by email at grandinetti.cami@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


for Lori Cohen, Associate Director
Office of Environmental Cleanup

cc: Mr. Tom Gainer
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Rick Keppler
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mr. Rob Neely
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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Mr. Michael Karnosh
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